

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4, 8, 14-15, 22-23, 30-33, 35, 48, 50-60, and 62-64 are cancelled.

Support for each amended Claim is found at the originally filed claims and throughout the originally filed specification.

Support for the specification amendment is found, for example, at originally filed Claim 19 wherein it is described that H_2SO_3 is a medium strong H_3O^+ ion provider.

No new matter is believed to have been added.

Applicants thank Examiner Cordray for indicating that Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 24-29, 34, 36-41, 67 and 69 are allowable.

The written description rejection of Claims 62-64 is obviated by cancellation of Claims 62-64.

The indefiniteness rejection of Claims 9-13, 16-21, 42-45, 47, 49, 61, 65, 66, 68 and 70 is believed to be obviated by the following:

Claim 9 is amended to replace the phrase “non-treated filler” with the phrase “the pigments, fillers or minerals that have not been treated with a combination of one or more medium-strong to strong H_3O^+ ion-providers and gaseous CO_2 .”

Claim 11 is amended to replace the phrase “non-treated filler” with the phrase “the pigments, fillers or minerals that have not been treated with a combination of one or more medium-strong to strong H_3O^+ ion-providers and gaseous CO_2 .”

Claim 17 is amended to replace the phrase “non-treated filler” with the phrase “the pigments, fillers or minerals that have not been treated with a combination of one or more medium-strong to strong H_3O^+ ion-providers and gaseous CO_2 .”

Claim 21 is amended to replace the phrase “non-treated filler” with the phrase “the pigments, fillers or minerals that have not been treated with a combination of one or more medium-strong to strong H_3O^+ ion-providers and gaseous CO_2 .”

Claim 68 has been amended to recite that the medium strong H_3O^+ ion provider is “selected from the group consisting of phosphoric acid, H_2SO_3 , HSO_4^- , oxalic acid and mixtures thereof.”

Applicants note that the $\text{pK}_{\text{a}1}$ of oxalic acid is 1.27, the $\text{pK}_{\text{a}1}$ of phosphoric acid is 2.12, the $\text{pK}_{\text{a}1}$ of sulfurous acid is 1.77, and the $\text{pK}_{\text{a}2}$ of HSO_4^- is 1.92. Thus, these acids fit the definition of a medium strong H_3O^+ ion provider at page 10 of the originally filed specification.

Claim 70 has been amended to recite that the at least one strong H_3O^+ ion provider is selected from the group consisting of H_2SO_4 , hydrochloric acid and mixtures thereof. Applicants note that the $\text{pK}_{\text{a}1}$ of sulfuric acid is -3, and the pK_{a} of hydrochloric acid is -8. Accordingly, these acids fit the definition of a strong acid at page 10 of the originally filed specification.

Withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection is respectfully requested.

The obviousness and anticipation rejections of Claim 62 as being unpatentable in view of Passaretti is obviated by cancellation of Claim 62.

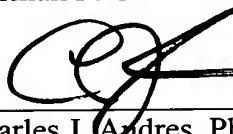
The obviousness rejection of Claims 63-64 as being unpatentable in view of Passaretti in view of Thomas is obviated by cancellation of Claims 63-64.

Applicants submit the present application is now in condition for allowance.

Early notification to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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